

Attorney's Docket No. 00-0072 Client's Docket No.MDI799

#### PATENT Utility APPLICATION COVER SHEET

BOX PATENT APPLICATION HONORABLE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the utility patent application of:

INVENTOR: NEBIAT GETACHEW

LEON KAHSSAI SENAIT GETACHEW

FOR:

SEPARABLE CONTAINER APPARATUS

#### Enclosed are:

- X Postcard for receipt stamp and return.
- X Applicant's Check for \$345.00, covering fees calculated below.
- X Specification with Claims, Abstract, & Declaration & Power of Attorney
- X A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37C.F.R § 1.9 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.
- X 6 sheets of drawing. Cover Sheet & Assignment to:
- X Information Disclosure Statement.

#### The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

	Col. 1	Col. 2	SMALL	ENTITY
FOR:	No. Filed	No. Extra	RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE			\$345	\$345
TOTAL CLAIMS	<b>16</b>   -20=	<b>0</b> x09	0	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	2 -3=	<b>0</b> x39	0	
MULTIPLE DEPENI	ENT CLAIMS E	PRESENTED	+125	
	ŗ.	TOTAL		\$345

#### DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which are not otherwise submitted and which may be required under 37 CFR 1.17 during the entire pendency of this application, to the Deposit Account # 11-0020.

August 18, 2000

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#### In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

In re Application of:
NEBIAT GETACHEW
LEON KAHSSAI
SENAIT GETACHEW

Filed:

Utility PATENT APPLICATION

For:

SEPARABLE CONTAINER APPARATUS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Date of Deposit:

August 18, 2000

I hereby certify that the attached U.S. Patent Application, informal drawings, transmittal letter, priority document, and/or Preliminary Amendment are being deposited with the United States Postal Service under Express Mail service EL493062788US on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

<u>August 18, 2000</u>

Date

RANDI VANDER WILT KAARDAL & ASSOCIATES, PC 3500 South First Ave. Circle-Suite 250 SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105-5802 (605) 336-9446 FAX (605) 336-1931 e-mail patent@kaardal.com Attorney's Docket No. K&A 00-0072 Client's Docket No. MDI799

#### **APPLICATION**

### FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

**SPECIFICATION** 

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, NEBIAT T. GETACHEW, a citizen of ETHIOPIA, and LEON KAHSSAI, a citizen of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and SENAIT GETACHEW, a citizen of CANADA, have invented a new and useful SEPARABLE CONTAINER APPARATUS of which the following is a specification:

#### SEPARABLE CONTAINER APPARATUS

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#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to a separably-attached containers and more particularly pertains to a new separable container apparatus for providing a convenient means of storing food products.

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#### Description of the Prior Art

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The use of a separably-attached containers is known in the prior art. More specifically, a separably-attached containers heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

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Known prior art includes U.S. Patent No. Des. 208,806; U.S. Patent No. 4,834,253; U.S. Patent No. 4,866,234; U.S. Patent No. 5,101,997; U.S. Patent No. 5,735,422; and U.S. Patent No. 4,139,114.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not disclose a new separable container apparatus. The inventive device includes containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely and integrally attached to and extending upwardly from the bottom wall with the containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; and also includes lids being removably attached to any combination of attached containers.

In these respects, the separable container apparatus according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of providing a convenient means of storing food products.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of separably-attached containers now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new separable container apparatus construction wherein the same can be utilized for providing a convenient means of storing food products.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new separable container apparatus which has many of the advantages of the separably-attached containers mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new separable container apparatus which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even

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implied by any of the prior art separably-attached containers, either alone or in any combination thereof.

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely and integrally attached to and extending upwardly from the bottom wall with the containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; and also includes lids being removably attached to any combination of attached containers.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

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In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

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As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be

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utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new separable container apparatus which has many of the advantages of the separably-attached containers mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new separable container apparatus which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art separably-attached containers, either alone or in any combination thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new separable container apparatus which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new separable container apparatus which is of a durable and reliable construction.

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An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new separable container apparatus which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such separable container apparatus economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new separable container apparatus which provides in the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new separable container apparatus for providing a convenient means of storing food products.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new separable container apparatus which includes containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely and integrally attached to and extending upwardly from the bottom wall with the containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; and also includes lids being removably attached to any combination of attached containers.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new separable container apparatus that allows the user to compactly store food products in a single structure with the structure being separable into individual containers.

Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new separable container apparatus that is easy and convenient to attach the containers together to form a single cylindrical structure.

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These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS 15

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a new separable container apparatus according to the present invention.

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Figure 2 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 4 is a top plan view of the first embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 5 is a side elevational view of the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a side elevational view of the second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 7 is an exploded side elevational view of the first embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 8 is a cross-sectional view of the third embodiment of the present invention.

# DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 8 thereof, a new separable container apparatus embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 8, the separable container apparatus 10 generally comprises containers 11-13 each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly 14-16 securely and integrally attached to and extending upwardly from the bottom wall with the containers 11-13 being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments. The peripheral side wall assembly 14-16 of each container 11-13 includes a first side wall 14, a second side wall 15, and a third side wall 16. Each of the first and second side walls 14,15 has a top edge 17,19 and a bottom edge 18,41 with the first and second side walls 14,15 of one of the containers 11-13 being detachably attached to the first and second side walls 14,15 of the others of the

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containers 11-13. The first side wall 14 of one container 11-13 is detachably attached to the second side wall 15 of another container 11-13. Each of the containers 11-13 includes an elongate first flange member 21 securely and conventionally attached to an exterior of the first side wall 14 and extending along a length of the top edge 17 thereof, and also includes a first recessed portion 24 disposed in the first side wall 14 and extending along a length of the bottom edge 18 thereof, and further includes a first slot 25 disposed in the first recessed portion 24 and extending the length of the bottom edge 18. Each elongate first flange member 21 includes a first portion 22 extending outwardly generally perpendicular of a respective first side wall 14, and also includes a second portion 23 being integrally attached to the first portion 22 and being angled relative to the first portion 22 and being disposed downwardly. Each of the containers 11-13 further includes a second slot 26 disposed in an exterior of the second wall 15 and extending along a length of the top edge 19 thereof and being adapted to receive the first flange member 21 of another container 11-13, and also includes an elongate second flange member 29 being securely and conventionally attached to an exterior of the second side wall 15 and extending outwardly and along a length of the bottom edge 41 thereof and being adapted to be received in the first recessed portion 24 and the first slot 25 of another container 11-13. Each of the second slots 26 is essentially angled and has a first portion 27 which extends into the second wall 14 and also has a second portion 28 which is angled relative to the first portion 27 and which is continuous of the first portion 27 and which is disposed downwardly. Each second flange member 29 includes a first portion 30 extending outwardly generally perpendicular of a respective second side wall 15, and also includes a second portion

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31 being integrally attached to the first portion 30 and being angled relative to the first portion 30 and being disposed upwardly.

Lids 32,33,37 are removably attached to any combination of attached containers 11-13. The lids 32,33,37 include a first lid 32 which is adapted to detachably fastened to all of the containers 11-13 being attached to one another, and also includes a second lid 33 which is adapted to detachably fasten to two of the containers 11-13 being attached to one another, and further includes a third lid 37 which is adapted to detachably fasten to one of the containers 11-13. The containers 11-13 are detachably attached to one another to essentially form a cylindrical structure having multiple compartments therein with the first lid 32 being circular shaped and fastenable about top edges 20 of the third side walls 16 to close upon the open tops of the containers 11-13. Each of the containers 11-13 essentially represents 1/3 of the cylindrical structure with two of the containers 11-13 being detachably attached to one another to essentially form 2/3 of the cylindrical structure with the second lid 32 having a plurality of edges 34-36 and being adapted to fasten about the top edges 20 of the third side walls 16 of the two containers 11-13 and about the top edge 17 of the first side wall 14 of one of the containers 11-13 and about the top edge 19 of the second side wall 15 of the other container 11-13. The edges of the second lid 33 includes a curved first edge 34, a straight second edge 35, and a straight third edge 36 which is angled more than 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees relative to the second edge 35 thereof. The third lid 37 has a plurality of edges 38-40 and is adapted to fasten about the top edges 17,19,20 of the first, second, and third side walls 14-16 of one of the containers 11. The edges 38-40 of the third lid 37 include a curved first edge 38, a straight second edge 39, and a straight third edge 40 which is angled more

than 180 degrees and less than 270 degrees relative to the second edge 39 thereof. The third side walls 16 are essentially curved, and the first and second side walls 14,15 are essentially planar. All the lids 32,33,37 further have lips 42-44 extending outwardly from one or more edges 34-36,38-40 thereof for opening and removing the lids 32,33,37 from the containers 11-13.

In use, the user attaches all three of the containers 11-13 together to form the cylindrical structure and places food products in each of the containers 11-13 and closes the containers 11-13 with the first lid 32 and stores the attached containers 11-13 in a cupboard or in the refrigerator or freezer. Alternatively, the user can separate the containers 11-13 as desired either as individual containers 11-13 or with two of the containers 11-13 being attached to one another.

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As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

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With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

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Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous

modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

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#### CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A separable container apparatus comprising:

containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; and

lids being removably attached to any combination of attached said containers.

- 2. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein said peripheral side wall assembly of each said container includes a first side wall, a second side wall, and a third side wall, each of said first and second side walls having a top edge and a bottom edge.
- 3. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 2, wherein said first and second side walls of one of said containers are detachably attached to said first and second side walls of the others of said containers.
- 4. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein said first side wall of one said container is detachably attached to said second side wall of another said container.
- 5. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 4, wherein each of said containers includes an elongate first flange

member securely attached to an exterior of said first side wall and extending along a length of said top edge thereof, and also includes a first recessed portion disposed in said first side wall and extending along a length of said bottom edge thereof, and further includes a first slot disposed in said first recessed portion and extending the length of said bottom edge.

- 6. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 5, wherein each said elongate first flange member includes a first portion extending outwardly generally perpendicular of a respective said first side wall, and also includes a second portion being integrally attached to said first portion and being angled relative to said first portion and being disposed downwardly.
- 7. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 6, wherein each of said containers further includes a second slot disposed in an exterior of said second wall and extending along a length of said top edge thereof and being adapted to receive said first flange member of another said container, and also includes an elongate second flange member being securely attached to an exterior of said second side wall and extending outwardly and along a length of said bottom edge thereof and being adapted to be received in said first recessed portion and said first slot of another said container.
- 8. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 7, wherein each of said second slots is essentially angled and has a first portion which extends into said second wall and also has a second portion which is angled relative to said first portion and

which is continuous of said first portion and which is disposed downwardly.

- 9. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein each said second flange member includes a first portion extending outwardly generally perpendicular of a respective said second side wall, and also includes a second portion being integrally attached to said first portion and being angled relative to said first portion and being disposed upwardly.
- 10. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 9, wherein said lids include a first lid which is adapted to detachably fastened to all of said containers being attached to one another, and also includes a second lid which is adapted to detachably fasten to two of said containers being attached to one another, and further includes a third lid which is adapted to detachably fasten to one of said containers.
- 11. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 10, wherein said containers are detachably attached to one another to essentially form a cylindrical structure having said multiple compartments therein with said first lid being circular shaped and fastenable about top edges of said third side walls to close upon said open tops of said containers.
- 12. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 11, wherein each of said containers essentially represents 1/3 of said cylindrical structure.

- 13. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 12, wherein two of said containers are detachably attached to one another to essentially form 2/3 of said cylindrical structure with said second lid having a plurality of edges and being adapted to fasten about said top edges of said third side walls of the two of said containers and about said top edge of said first side wall of one of said containers and about said top edge of said second side wall of the other of said containers, said edges of said second lid including a curved first edge, a straight second edge, and a straight third edge which is angled more than 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees relative to said second edge thereof.
- 14. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 13, wherein said third lid has a plurality of edges and is adapted to fasten about said top edges of said first, second, and third side walls of one of said containers, said edges of said third lid including a curved first edge, a straight second edge, and a straight third edge which is angled more than 180 degrees and less than 270 degrees relative to said second edge thereof.
- 15. A separable container apparatus as described in claim 14, wherein said third side walls are essentially curved, and said first and second side walls are essentially planar.
  - 16. A separable container apparatus comprising:

containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments, said peripheral side

wall assembly of each said container including a first side wall, a second side wall, and a third side wall, each of said first and second side walls having a top edge and a bottom edge, said first and second side walls of one of said containers being detachably attached to said first and second side walls of the others of said containers, said first side wall of one said container being detachably attached to said second side wall of another said container, each of said containers including an elongate first flange member securely attached to an exterior of said first side wall and extending along a length of said top edge thereof, and also including a first recessed portion disposed in said first side wall and extending along a length of said bottom edge thereof, and further including a first slot disposed in said first recessed portion and extending the length of said bottom edge, each said elongate first flange member including a first portion extending outwardly generally perpendicular of a respective said first side wall, and also including a second portion being integrally attached to said first portion and being angled relative to said first portion and being disposed downwardly, each of said containers further including a second slot disposed in an exterior of said second wall and extending along a length of said top edge thereof and being adapted to receive said first flange member of another said container, and also including an elongate second flange member being securely attached to an exterior of said second side wall and extending outwardly and along a length of said bottom edge thereof and being adapted to be received in said first recessed portion and said first slot of another said container, each of said second slots being essentially angled and having a first portion which extends into said second wall and also having a second portion which is angled relative to said first portion and which is continuous of said first

portion and which is disposed downwardly, each said second flange member including a first portion extending outwardly generally perpendicular of a respective said second side wall, and also including a second portion being integrally attached to said first portion and being angled relative to said first portion and being disposed upwardly; and

lids being removably attached to any combination of attached said containers; said lids including a first lid which is adapted to detachably fastened to all of said containers being attached to one another, and also including a second lid which is adapted to detachably fasten to two of said containers being attached to one another, and further including a third lid which is adapted to detachably fasten to one of said containers, said containers being detachably attached to one another to essentially form a cylindrical structure having said multiple compartments therein with said first lid being circular shaped and fastenable about top edges of said third side walls to close upon said open tops of said containers, each of said containers essentially representing 1/3 of said cylindrical structure, two of said containers being detachably attached to one another to essentially form 2/3 of said cylindrical structure with said second lid having a plurality of edges and being adapted to fasten about said top edges of said third side walls of the two of said containers and about said top edge of said first side wall of one of said containers and about said top edge of said second side wall of the other of said containers, said edges of said second lid including a curved first edge, a straight second edge, and a straight third edge which is angled more than 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees relative to said second edge thereof, said third lid having a plurality of edges and being adapted to fasten about said top edges of said first, second, and third side walls of one of said

containers, said edges of said third lid including a curved first edge, a straight second edge, and a straight third edge which is angled more than 180 degrees and less than 270 degrees relative to said second edge thereof, said third side walls being essentially curved, and said first and second side walls being essentially planar, said lids further having lips extending outwardly from one or more of said edges for opening and removing said lids from said containers.

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# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A separable container apparatus for providing a convenient means of storing food products. The separable container apparatus includes containers each having an open top, a bottom wall, and a peripheral side wall assembly securely and integrally attached to and extending upwardly from the bottom wall with the containers being detachably connected to one another to essentially form a single structure having a plurality of storage compartments; and also includes lids being removably attached to any combination of attached containers.

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# DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

#### SEPARABLE CONTAINER APPARATUS

the specification of which is attached hereto.

I further state that I do not know and do not believe that the above-named invention has ever been known or used in the United States before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of any inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on any application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than one (1) year prior to this application; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on the invention has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as identified below.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment if applicable.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

NONE				
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/ Year Filed)	(Yes)	(No)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below:

NONE (Application No.) (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365 (c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

NONE
(Application No.)
(Filing Date)
(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Ivar M. Kaardal, Registration Number 29,812.

Send Correspondence to: Kaardal & Associates, PC

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Attorney's Docket No. K&A 00-0072 Client's Docket No. MDI799

Applicant or Patentee: **NEBIAT T. GETACHEW** 

[X] the specification filed herewith.

LEON KAHSSAI SENAIT GETACHEW

Serial or Patent Number:

Filed or Issued:

For: SEPARABLE CONTAINER APPARATUS

# VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled as above and described in:

[ ] patent no, issued
I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if the person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).
Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:
<ul><li>[X] no such person, concern, or organization</li><li>[ ] persons, concerns or organizations listed below*</li></ul>
*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)
FULL NAME: NOT APPLICABLE ADDRESS: NOT APPLICABLE  [ ] INDIVIDUAL [ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR: <b>NEBIAT T. GETACHEW</b>
At webst luften Date: 7-29-00
Inventor's Signature
NAME OF INVENTOR: LEON KAHSSAI
(Cunfylls SAi Date: 7-29-00
Inventor's Signature
NAME OF INVENTOR: SENAIT GETACHEW
Senait-Getachew Date: 7-29-00
Inventor's Signature

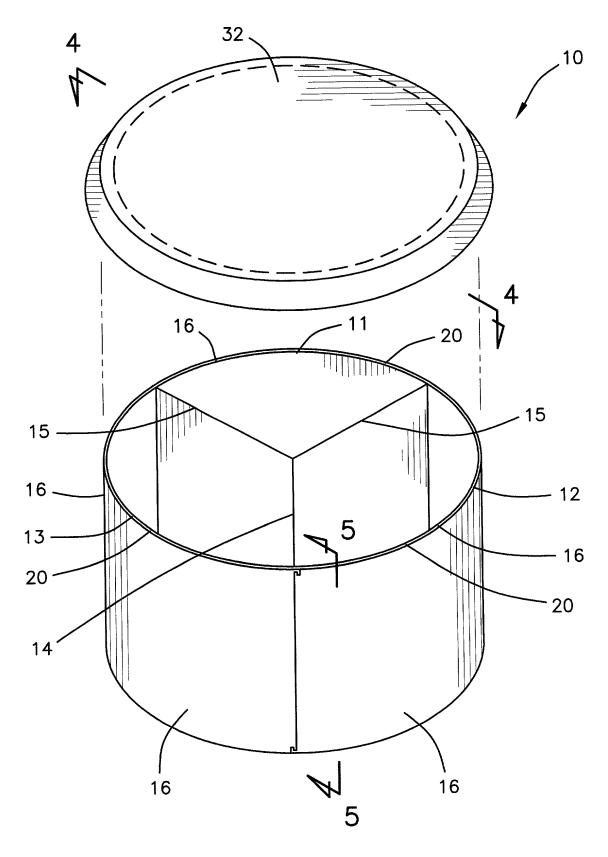


FIG. 1

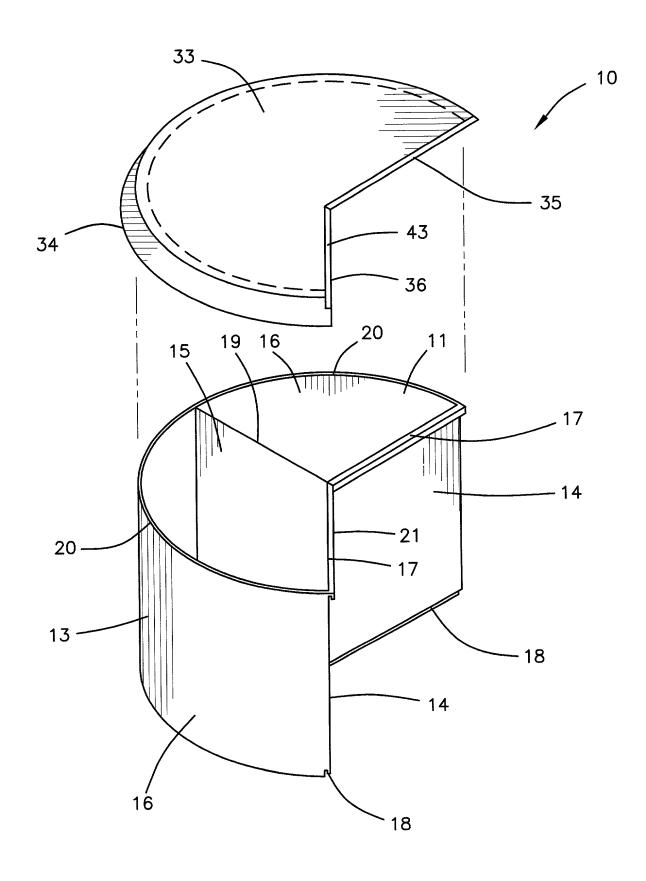


FIG. 2

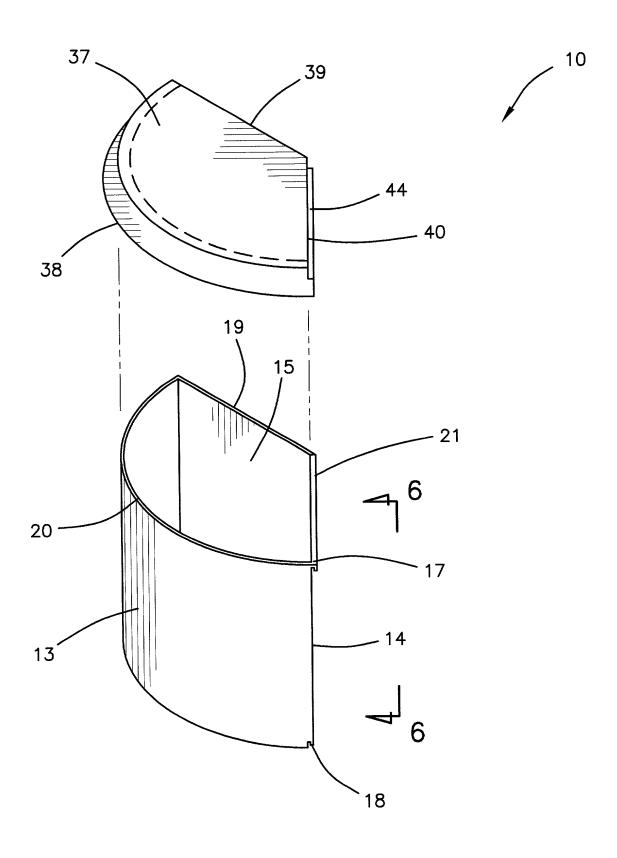


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

